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PATENT

Serial No. 09/787,096

Amendment in Reply to Office Action mailed on August 14, 2006

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of examining a record carrier for presence of defects comprising the acts of:

following a track to be examined and monitoring a resulting tracking signal; and

rating the examined track for the presence of the defects based on characteristics of the resulting tracking signal; and

determining if recording should be discontinued based on the rating act indicating that the examined track contains defects;

wherein the examined track is rated as being defective if the resulting tracking signal has a value which exceeds a predetermined threshold for a time period from approximately 50  $\mu$ s to approximately 75  $\mu$ s.

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Claim 2 (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the tracking signal has a nominal signal value of zero which corresponds to a center of the examined track, and has a maximum value which corresponds to a maximum lateral deviation with respect to the center, and wherein a level of a preselected fraction of said maximum value is chosen as the predetermined threshold.

Claim 4 (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) The method of examining as in Claim 1 wherein the record carrier is examined for the presence of spot defects, the method further comprising the acts of:

- a) examining integrity of predetermined test tracks of the record carrier;
- b) examining integrity of tracks adjacent a relevant test track each time that upon the examination a test track appears to be defective, in order to determine in this way the number of

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tracks affected by the same spot defect;

c) entering examined tracks in a defect list each time that the number thus determined in the act (b) is greater than a predetermined threshold value;

d) storing the defect list in a memory.

6. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 5, wherein a predetermined number of tracks between successive test tracks is skipped.

7. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the defect list is recorded on the examined record carrier.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A method of recording information on a record carrier of the type having a multitude of concentric substantially circular recording tracks, the method comprising the acts of:

first providing, in an examination phase, ~~a said defect list of tracks affected by a comparatively large spot defect by means of a the method as claimed in Claim 6 Claim 5;~~

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subsequently recording information on the disc in a recording phase while reference is made to said defect list, the recording tracks included in said defect list being skipped in the recording process.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of examining of Claim 1 wherein the record carrier is examined for the presence of spot defects, the method further comprising the acts of:

examining the integrity of predetermined test tracks of the record carrier;

entering defective tracks in a primary defect list each time that upon the examination of a test track it appears to be defective, and entering tracks situated in a suspect area at opposite sides of the defective test tracks in an alarm list;

storing the primary defect list and the alarm list in a memory.

10. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein a predetermined number of tracks between successive test tracks is skipped, and wherein each suspect area extends from the a

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defective test track to ~~the~~ a directly preceding and ~~the~~ a directly following test track, respectively.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A method of recording information on a record carrier of the type having a multitude of concentric substantially circular recording tracks, the method comprising:

first providing, in a primary examination phase, ~~a~~ said primary defect list ~~of test tracks having a defect~~ and, optionally, an alarm list of tracks situated in a suspect area at opposite sides of the defective ~~test~~ tracks, by means of ~~a~~ the method as claimed in ~~Claim 10~~ Claim 9;

subsequently recording information on the disc in a recording phase while reference is made to said primary defect list and said optional alarm list, the recording tracks included in said primary defect list as well as the tracks situated in a suspect area at opposite sides of the defective ~~test~~ tracks being skipped in the recording process;

subsequently examining the integrity of the tracks in said suspect areas in a secondary examination phase, in order to determine in this way the number of tracks affected by the same

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spot defect;

entering the defective tracks in a secondary defect list each time that the number thus determined is greater than a predetermined threshold value.

12. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the secondary defect list is recorded on the examined record carrier.

13. (Previously Presented) A method of recording information on a record carrier, comprising the acts of:

monitoring a recording track to provide a rating of defects contained on the track; and

based on a resulting tracking signal indicating that the track contains a defect, determining whether recording is to be continued or discontinued; wherein the recording track is rated as being defective if the tracking signal has a value which exceeds a predetermined threshold for a time period from approximately 50  $\mu$ s to approximately 75  $\mu$ s.

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Claim 14 (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the tracking signal has a nominal signal value of zero which corresponds to the center of a track, and has a maximum value which corresponds to a maximum lateral deviation with respect to the center of a track, and wherein a level of a preselected fraction of said maximum value is adopted as the predetermined threshold.

Claim 16 (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A recording device suitable for recording of information on ~~the a~~ record carrier, said recording device comprising:

a control unit;

a write/read unit adapted to aim a laser beam at ~~the an~~ examined track of the record carrier under control of the control unit and to receive laser light reflected from the ~~disc~~ record carrier, and further adapted to supply ~~the a~~ tracking signal to the

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control unit, wherein the tracking signal has been determined based on the reflected laser light; and

wherein the control unit is adapted to carry out the method as claimed in Claim 13.

18. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the preselected fraction is approximately 0.5.

19. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said time period is approximately 60  $\mu$ s.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of examining a record carrier for presence of defects comprising the acts of:

following a track to be examined and monitoring a resulting tracking signal; and

rating the examined track for the presence of the defects based on characteristics of the resulting tracking signal;—and

determining if recording should be discontinued based on the rating act indicating that the examined track contains defects;

examining integrity of predetermined test tracks of the record

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carrier; and

examining integrity of tracks adjacent a relevant test track  
each time that upon the examination a test track appears to be  
defective, in order to determine a number of tracks affected by the  
same spot defect;

wherein approximately 50 tracks between successive examined  
test tracks of said predetermined test tracks are skipped.

21. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 15,  
wherein the preselected fraction is approximately 2/3.

22. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 13,  
wherein said time period is approximately 60  $\mu$ s.

23. (Currently Amended) A method of examining a record carrier  
for the presence of a defect comprising the acts of:

monitoring a track to be examined and generating a tracking  
signal from the track that is monitored;

rating the track for the presence of spot defects based on  
characteristics of the tracking signal;

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entering the track into a defect list if the track ~~it~~ appears  
to be defective; and

creating a suspect area list for other tracks at opposite  
sides of the track if the track appears to be defective;

wherein the track is rated as being defective if the tracking  
signal has a value which exceeds a predetermined threshold for a  
time period from approximately 50  $\mu$ s to approximately 75  $\mu$ s.